

SENATE BILL 930

P1

0lr2899

By: **Senators Lenett, Harrington, and Madaleno**

Introduced and read first time: February 17, 2010

Assigned to: Rules

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State Government – Silver–Haired Legislature**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Silver–Haired Legislature; establishing the goals
4 of the legislature; providing for the appointment of the members of the
5 legislature; specifying the membership and terms of members of the legislature;
6 requiring the legislature to be a bicameral legislature with each house made up
7 of certain members and modeled after the General Assembly; requiring the
8 legislature to work with the Department of Aging to adopt certain bylaws and
9 procedures, meet once a year to conduct a certain model legislative session, and
10 advise and work with the Governor and the General Assembly regarding the
11 legislature’s legislative priorities; authorizing the legislature to use the State
12 House for a certain purpose under certain circumstances; providing for the
13 initial appointment and term of the members; and generally relating to the
14 Silver–Haired Legislature.

15 BY adding to

16 Article – State Government

17 Section 9–2801 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 28. Silver–Haired
18 Legislature”

19 Annotated Code of Maryland

20 (2009 Replacement Volume)

21 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
22 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

23 **Article – State Government**

24 **SUBTITLE 28. SILVER–HAIRD LEGISLATURE.**

25 **9–2801.**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (A) (1) **THERE IS A SILVER-HAIRED LEGISLATURE.**

2 (2) **THE GOALS OF THE SILVER-HAIRED LEGISLATURE ARE TO:**

3 (I) **MOTIVATE OLDER CITIZENS TO REALIZE THAT**
4 **LEGISLATIVE INVOLVEMENT IS A PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY OF EFFECTIVE**
5 **CITIZENSHIP;**

6 (II) **HELP OLDER MARYLANDERS KNOW THAT IF THEY ARE**
7 **TO BECOME A VIABLE POLITICAL FORCE, THEY MUST BECOME INFORMED AND**
8 **KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT THE ISSUES FACING THEIR COMMUNITY, STATE, AND**
9 **COUNTRY;**

10 (III) **DEVELOP A FORUM FOR OLDER PERSONS TO DISCUSS**
11 **AND DEBATE ISSUES CONCERNING THEIR OWN WELFARE AND THAT OF OTHER**
12 **CITIZENS;**

13 (IV) **EDUCATE ITS MEMBERS AS TO THEIR ADVOCACY ROLE**
14 **SO THAT THEY MAY CONTINUE THEIR INVOLVEMENT IN LEGISLATIVE MATTERS**
15 **IN THEIR LOCAL COMMUNITIES;**

16 (V) **PROVIDE A MODEL LEGISLATIVE BODY IN WHICH THE**
17 **MEMBERS WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO INTRODUCE, DISCUSS, AND PASS**
18 **BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS DEALING WITH ISSUES RELATED TO THE STATE; AND**

19 (VI) **WORK FOR THE PASSAGE IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**
20 **OF BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE SILVER-HAIRED LEGISLATURE.**

21 (B) (1) **THE SILVER-HAIRED LEGISLATURE SHALL BE COMPOSED OF**
22 **THE SAME NUMBER OF MEMBERS AS THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.**

23 (2) **EACH MEMBER OF THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF DELEGATES**
24 **OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL APPOINT ONE MEMBER OF THE**
25 **SILVER-HAIRED LEGISLATURE.**

26 (3) **A MEMBER SHALL BE:**

27 (I) **AT LEAST 60 YEARS OLD; AND**

28 (II) **A REGISTERED VOTER OF THE DISTRICT FROM WHICH**
29 **THE MEMBER IS APPOINTED.**

30 (4) (I) **THE TERM OF A MEMBER IS 2 YEARS.**

1 **(II) A MEMBER SHALL CONTINUE TO SERVE UNTIL A**
2 **SUCCESSOR IS APPOINTED.**

3 **(C) THE SILVER-HAIRED LEGISLATURE SHALL:**

4 **(1) BE A BICAMERAL LEGISLATURE WITH:**

5 **(I) MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE**
6 **SENATE TO SERVE IN ONE HOUSE; AND**

7 **(II) MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE**
8 **OF DELEGATES TO SERVE IN THE OTHER HOUSE.**

9 **(2) BE MODELED AFTER THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN STRUCTURE**
10 **AND FORMAT;**

11 **(3) ELECT THE PRESIDING OFFICERS IN EACH HOUSE;**

12 **(4) WORK WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF AGING TO ADOPT BYLAWS**
13 **AND PROCEDURES TO GOVERN THE INTERNAL OPERATIONS OF THE**
14 **LEGISLATURE;**

15 **(5) MEET ONCE EACH YEAR TO CONDUCT A MODEL LEGISLATIVE**
16 **SESSION THAT INCLUDES MEMBERS PRESENTING, DEBATING, AND VOTING ON**
17 **BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS; AND**

18 **(6) ADVISE AND WORK WITH THE GOVERNOR AND THE GENERAL**
19 **ASSEMBLY REGARDING THE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES OF THE SILVER-HAIRED**
20 **LEGISLATURE.**

21 **(D) THE SILVER-HAIRED LEGISLATURE MAY USE THE STATE HOUSE**
22 **TO CONDUCT THE MODEL LEGISLATIVE SESSION REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION**
23 **(C) OF THIS SECTION WHEN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IS NOT IN SESSION AND**
24 **THE STATE HOUSE IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.**

25 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

26 (1) The initial members of the Silver-Haired Legislature shall be
27 appointed on or before December 31, 2010; and

28 (2) The initial term of the members shall begin on January 1, 2011.

29 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
30 October 1, 2010.